

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 2, 2016**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Lower Columbia River commercial salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2016 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1a (January 27, 2016).

- Bonneville Dam passage through June 1 totals over 139,000 adult Chinook. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 184,000 adult fish to the Columbia River.
- At this run size, non-treaty fisheries are allowed an ESA impact limit of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 16,744 upriver mortalities
- Five mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date with 3,070 adult Chinook landed. Preliminary landings for the recent May 31-Jun 1 fishing period total 542 Chinook from 44 deliveries. Combined kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook to date is estimated at 2,652 fish, or 88% of the current allocation of 2,999 fish. Impacts for this fishery to date total 0.467% compared to 0.420% allocated.
- Based on landings to date, an estimated 347 upriver Chinook mortalities, or 12% of the pre-update commercial quota remains available. Staff projects a non-Indian ESA impact balance of 0.35% (18% of total allowed) will remain at the end of the spring season. Similar to 2015, staff is proposing that commercial fisheries utilize a portion of this balance in order to access their remaining catch balance allocation.
- Considering expected mark rates and the proportion of upriver stock Chinook, staff is estimating about 300 adult Chinook remain available for commercial harvest. Given the limited balance of fish available for harvest and increasing catch rates, staff recommends additional commercial fishing opportunity utilize landing limits to manage catch within the available guideline. This approach has proven to be a useful tool when harvestable fish are limited. All other regulations typically in place for spring season fisheries would remain in place (recovery boxes, drift times, etc.).

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation- 2016 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	9:00 PM Tuesday June 7 until 5:00 AM Wednesday June 8 (8 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Multiple net rule in place: Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8- (0.375) inches or greater.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad. Landing limits in place. A maximum of six (6) adult adipose fin clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel. The first six (6) adult hatchery fish must be retained and no additional drifts may be conducted

once the Chinook limit has been retained. Jacks (Chinook less than 24-inches) do not count against the adult landing limit.

Regulations:

Standard regulations typically in place for large-mesh spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, live capture certification, etc.

Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any non-legal salmonid that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Additional Rules:

Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery. Additionally, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.

Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

Quick Reporting: 24-hour quick reporting required per WAC 220-69-240 for Washington wholesale dealers. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- Similar to the last two periods, staff is recommending a large mesh fishery due to high shad abundance which prevents effective use of tangle nets. Adoption of a fishery with large mesh gear would require the Compact to initiate the adaptive management clause outlined in the current Columbia River policy.
- The catch estimate is 225 hatchery Chinook kept based on an expected 45 deliveries. Season total upriver mortalities are projected at 2,918 fish, or 97% of the current mainstem commercial allocation.
- The proposed mainstem fishery avoids conflict with the Monday/Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas, except Youngs Bay where staff recommends the following action:

Oregon State Staff Recommendation - Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery

Retention and sales of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 9 PM Tuesday June 7 through 12:00 PM (noon) Wednesday June 8, 2016.

Non-Treaty Catch Balance Summary

Summary of 2016 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary						
Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)						
Non-Indian Fishery	in-Season Allocated (184.0 K)	In hand	Projected	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem (<i>proj. for Jun 7</i>)	2,999	2,652	266	2,918	81	97%
Select Area (<i>season total</i>)	276	232	35	267	9	97%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,275</i>	<i>2,884</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>3,185</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>97%</i>
Below BON (<i>season total</i>)	10,601	8,708	1,625	10,333	268	97%
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,413	1,480	0	1,480	-67	105%
Snake River/Wanapum	1,455	1,322	0	1,322	133	91%
<i>Total</i>	<i>13,469</i>	<i>11,510</i>	<i>1,625</i>	<i>13,135</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>98%</i>
Grand Total	16,744	14,394	1,926	16,320	424	97%

- Impacts for combined non-Indian fisheries are projected to total 1.63% or 86% of the total 1.90% allowed.

Future Hearings

- A hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Thursday June 9 via teleconference to consider non-Indian summer Chinook commercial fisheries and potentially treaty commercial fisheries. Staff may update the agenda to include non-Indian spring season fisheries if warranted.